

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in this application:

1. (Previously Presented) A thermal transfer medium comprising a substrate bearing on at least part of one surface thereof a coating layer of a thermally transferable overlay material for transfer onto a thermal transfer image formed on a receiver material, wherein the coating layer comprises a hydroxy-terminated polyester having a Tg of at least 75° C and a molecular weight ranging from 6,000 to 10,000, and wherein a cross-linked acrylic subcoat is present between the substrate and coating.

2. (Cancelled).

3. (Previously Presented) A thermal transfer medium according to claim 1, wherein the polyester has a Tg of about 80°C and a molecular weight ranging from about 7,000 to 10,000.

4. (Previously Presented) A thermal transfer medium according to claim 1, wherein the polyester has a Tg of about 77°C and a molecular weight ranging from about 7,500 to 10,000.

5. (Previously Presented) A thermal transfer medium according to claim 1, wherein the coating further comprises filler material.

6. (Previously Presented) A thermal transfer medium according to claim 1, wherein the coating further comprises one or more ultra-violet light absorbers.

7. (Previously Presented) A thermal transfer medium according to claim 1, wherein the coating further comprises one or more optical brighteners.

8. (Previously Presented) A thermal transfer medium according to claim 1, wherein the substrate comprises a film of heat-resistant material selected from polyesters, polyamides, polyimides, polycarbonates, polysulphones, polypropylene and cellophane.

9. (Previously Presented) A thermal transfer medium according to claim 1, wherein the coating has a thickness ranging from 0.5 to 5.0 μ m.

10-11 (Cancelled).

12. (Previously Presented) A thermal transfer medium according to claim 1, wherein the other surface of the substrate has a heat-resistant backcoat.

13. (Previously Presented) A thermal transfer medium, comprising an elongate strip of substrate material having on one surface thereof a plurality of similar sets of thermally transferable dye coats and mass transfer layers, each set comprising a respective coat of dye colors, yellow, magenta and cyan, and a respective mass transfer layer for colorant and overlay, each coat or layer being in the form of a discrete stripe extending transverse to the length of the substrate, wherein each overlay material mass transfer layer comprises a coating of an overlay material comprising a hydroxy-terminated polyester having a glass transition temperature (T_g) greater than 50° C and a molecular weight ranging from 6,000 to 10,000, and wherein a cross-linked acrylic subcoat is present between the substrate and coating.

14. (Cancelled).

15. (Previously Presented) A method of forming an overlay on a receiver material, comprising the steps of

superposing a thermal transfer medium in accordance with claim 1 and a receiver material;

applying localized heating to the thermal transfer medium to form an overlay on the receiver material.

400077257v1

16. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 15, further comprising the step of producing a printed image on the receiver material by thermal transfer printing prior to formation of the overlay.

17. (Cancelled).

18. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 15, wherein the receiver material comprises a card of polyvinyl chloride.

19. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 15, wherein the receiver material has an image-receiving surface comprising vinyl chloride/vinyl acetate copolymer.

20. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 15, wherein the receiver is in the form of an identification card bearing a full color image produced by thermal transfer printing and text and/or a bar code produced by mass transfer printing of colorant.

21. (Previously Presented) The combination of a receiver material having an image-receiving surface comprising vinyl chloride/vinyl acetate copolymer and a thermal transfer medium comprising a substrate bearing on at least part of one surface thereof a coating layer of a thermally transferable overlay material for transfer onto a thermal transfer image formed on the receiver material, wherein the coating layer comprises a hydroxy-terminated polyester having a T_g greater than 50°C and a molecular weight ranging from 6,000 to 10,000, and wherein a cross-linked acrylic subcoat is present between the substrate and coating.

22. (Previously Presented) A combination according to claim 21, wherein the receiver material comprises a card of polyvinyl chloride.

23-25. (Cancelled).

400077257v1

26. (Previously Presented) A method of forming an overlay on a receiver material having an image-receiving surface comprising vinyl chloride/vinyl acetate copolymer, comprising the steps of

superimposing a thermal transfer medium comprising a substrate bearing on at least part of one surface thereof a coating layer of a thermally transferable overlay material for transfer onto a thermal transfer image formed on a receiver material, wherein the coating layer comprises a hydroxy-terminated polyester having a Tg greater than 50° C and a molecular weight ranging from 6,000 to 10,000, and wherein a cross-linked acrylic subcoat is present between the substrate and coating; and

applying localized heating to the thermal transfer medium to form an overlay on the receiver material.

27. (Cancelled).